

NOTES & NEWS

An Overlooked Subgenus and Species
from Panama

BY

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Trichotropis gouldii A. ADAMS, 1857 was described in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London for 1856 (p. 389, published January 10, 1857). The Latin description, freely translated, is as follows:

Shell ovate-fusiform, very slightly umbilicate, white, thin; spire high; with seven convex whorls having raised lirae, the spire beautifully cancellate and the interspaces striate with thin longitudinal lamellae; aperture oval, produced anteriorly, canal obsolete; outer lip smooth, rounded, anteriorly slightly reflected, inner lip with simple sharp edge.

Length, $1\frac{1}{2}$ poll. [37 mm]. Hab. Chiriqui, Veragua [W. Panama].

ADAMS surmised that the shell might have had a periostracum when alive, and he noted that "it differs from the typical genus in the canal of the aperture being almost obsolete."

In 1861 HENRY ADAMS (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1861, p. 272) proposed the subgenus *Alora*, with *Trichotropis gouldii* the sole species. Since then it has dropped from notice.

Because the shell ADAMS described had been in the Cuming collection, I searched for it in the collection of the British Museum (Natural History) when I was there in 1964 and 1965 and again in 1967 but without success. If the shell is still in the Museum's collection, it has been mislabelled and the original notations obscured or lost.

Leafing through the illustrations of known Panamic gastropods for a possible identification, I can come up with only one form from Panama that meets all the requirements of ADAMS' original description. This is *Recluzia insignis* PILSBRY & LOWE, 1932. The major difference is in size, for the PILSBRY & LOWE holotype is stated to be only 15 mm high. They even mention the thin

periostracum that was predicted by ADAMS. Therefore, I suspect that the PILSBRY & LOWE species is going to prove to be a synonym, but even if it can be retained, it should be transferred from *Recluzia*, a genus in which the shells are normally smooth, to *Alora*. Also, *Alora* should be divorced from *Trichotropis* (a North Pacific genus) and elevated to generic rank, with *A. gouldii* (A. ADAMS, 1857) as type by monotypy. Sculpture and form of the shell would suggest removal of the genus from Janthinidae and transfer to Epitonidae, where it might find a place somewhere near *Scalina*.

Laternula Living on the Pacific Coast?

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In 1963 MISS CATHERINE DUNLOP, who was identifying mollusks for an ecologic project being undertaken by Portland State College students under Dr. John MacNab, sent several small clams for determination. One lot proved to be *Laternula*, a genus not native to the West Coast. The specimens had been taken in Coos Bay, Oregon, about 150 feet from shore. There were two specimens, both somewhat broken but with valves intact, one clearly showing a lithodesma on the hinge.

Mr. Keith B. Macdonald, working in marsh channels of Coos Bay in 1966, submitted two more specimens of *Laternula* for identification. These also seem to have been alive when taken, though the soft parts were missing by the time I saw them. The periostracum was fresh, and one valve showed a fragment of the lithodesma. These specimens were slightly larger than the earlier two but smaller than most adult *Laternula*. Comparison of the two lots and study of the literature on Japanese *Laternula* (the most likely source of importation), suggests that the species probably is *Laternula (Laternula) limicola* (REEVE, 1863), a form that occurs on mud flats in central and northern Japan. The fact that two lots were taken in Oregon three years apart would imply that this Japanese bivalve may be becoming established in American waters. (Order Anomalodesmata; Superfamily Pandoracea).